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INR WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS
OF DEVELOPMENTS IN HUMAN RIGHTS*

No. 6, May 23, 1977

See Malawi last page

LATIN AMERICA

Argentina

In the latest of its human rights wrap-ups, Embassy Buenos Aires on May 17 reported the following:

--Church-State Relations. The Argentine Bishops' document of May 7 voiced concern over government abuses. President Videla said that the report did not signal a confrontation, but it did "in part correspond to a very sad reality."

--Anti-Semitism. The government recently assured interested Jewish groups that recent arrests have nothing to do with the social or religious affiliation of those arrested. On May 11, two pro-Nazi books were banned. On May 6, a synagogue was bombed, but no one was hurt.

--Terrorist Confrontations. According to press accounts, more than 350 alleged terrorists have been killed since the beginning of the year.

--Justice System. The federal court overruled a lower court's denial of habeas corpus, chastised the court for not inquiring further into the case, and listed the rights of the accused. The Embassy comments that, in spite of several such rulings, the government has made no effort to comply with them.

--Jehovah's Witnesses. A federal judge overruled a lower court decision barring two Jehovah's Witnesses from attending public school. He said that no student could be barred from a public school because of his religion.

--Interior Ministry Lists. The May 7 list named 68 Argentines given permission to leave the country, 37 released from executive custody, one Chilean expelled, and 17 persons detained. The Embassy notes that the

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number of persons authorized to leave is the largest so far and may indicate an attempt to resolve borderline subversive cases by permitting them to leave the country.

--Press Freedom. A newspaper publishers' group has spoken out for protection of the press and has protested the takeover of the newspaper Norte of Resistencia and the arrest of its editors.

--Perez Esquivel. The son of this detained editor denied stories in the London Sunday Times that the editor had disappeared and that his family had been arrested. The arrest was open, and the family continues free. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE; Buenos Aires 3631)

Julio Carasales, Argentine Ambassador to the OAS, stated in a May 14 press conference, that, with respect to human rights, the US had apparently abandoned its "aggressive public initiatives." (UNCLASSIFIED; Buenos Aires 3590)

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